

SITUATION REPORT NO. 21
INCIDENT NO. 99-009
DATE: June 23, 1999 TIME: 3:00 p.m.

TO: Governor Edward T. Schafer
State Capitol
Bismarck, ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: Spring flooding – Above normal soil moisture content throughout North Dakota, compounded by seven years of flooding and additional precipitation, has resulted in overland, river and flash flooding and ground movement (landslides and mudslides). Excessive high winds associated with storm and tornado activity have contributed to ongoing problems faced by North Dakotans.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No change from previous reports.
3. DAMAGES: The level of Devils Lake measured 1,447.05 at Creel Bay on June 23, the National Weather Service has reported.

On June 13, a tornado caused extensive damage to a farmstead located eight miles south of Beulah in Mercer County. Farmstead damage included the home, its attached garage, a barn that had been completely removed from its location, smaller agricultural buildings and farm equipment. N.D. Highway 49 was temporarily blocked until debris from the farmstead could be removed from the driving surface. The tornado also caused temporary power outages in the area.

In Morton County, two tornadoes in the St. Anthony area, two in the New Salem area and one in the Breien area were reported on June 13, but no known damages were reported. Rainfall amounts totaled one-half inch in the St. Anthony area and 25/100ths in the Breien area. Dime-size hail was reported in St. Anthony, Breien and New Salem, and pea-size hail in the Hebron and Glen Ullin areas.

Reports from Williams County farmers indicate that excessive moisture in the northern part of the county will have an adverse impact on planting. Between 2,000 to 5,000 acres will be impacted.

On June 8, a tornado uprooted trees and removed shingles on buildings in Mountrail County. One uprooted tree landed on a vehicle. Participants in a Stanley City Council meeting took shelter in a basement during the storm.

In Wells County, approximately six cars of a Canadian-Pacific Railroad train derailed on June 15, spilling sunflower seed, wheat, rapeseed oil, aluminum

plates and lumber into a slough adjacent to the tracks. Rail personnel clean the site with a vacuum truck. No one was injured in the incident. The N.D. Department of Health, N.D. Game and Fish Department and U.S. Fish and Wildlife provided technical assistance.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

5. STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No change from previous reports.

6. VOLUNTEER ACTION: The toll-free helpline for the Mental Health Association in North Dakota is serving as the helpline for the Individual and Family Grant Program (IFGP). Disaster victims can call the helpline at (800) 472-2911 and be transferred to IFGP staff for assistance.

Members of the Stanley Fire Department and Mountrail area weather spotters provided assistance during a June 8 tornado.

Mercer County area weather spotters also provided support during the June 13 tornado. Neighbors and relatives assisted a farm family with recovery efforts.

The American Red Cross initiated a new disaster operation, DR-088, as the result of the flash flooding at Garrison. Red Cross expenditures for this operation are in the \$20,000 range. Relief efforts for DR-069 (flood disaster) are continuing and expenditures for this operation to date amount to \$80,437. An additional \$2,600 has been spent in the Mountain, ND, area as a result of the recent tornadoes. The Red Cross provided 25 cleanup kits to Nelson County residents and continues to provide food and lodging to individuals whose homes are being inundated by Devils Lake floodwaters.

The Salvation Army has opened a field office at 411 4th Street in Devils Lake. Staff will be assisting residents in Benson, Ramsey, Rolette, Towner and Pierce Counties affected by flooding in 1997-98. Staff members hope to know by July 15 if funding will be allocated for the 1999 flood disaster.

United Methodist Upper Midwest Recovery will be working with the Salvation Army to supplement assistance for Devils Lake area flood victims.

7. MAJOR ACTIONS: The State of North Dakota is taking additional steps to further respond to the Devils Lake flooding crisis. These steps are necessary and part of ongoing efforts to alleviate hardships experienced by Devils Lake Basin communities and their residents. The first effort calls for constructing a channel to move three feet of water from Devils Lake to Stump Lake. On June 18, 1999, state officials applied to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for a Section 404 permit for construction of the channel. With the second effort, state officials will continue to explore a temporary emergency outlet through Twin Lakes to move up to 300 cubic feet of water per second from Devils Lake to the Sheyenne River. The third effort calls for state officials to continue working with USACE officials to re-evaluate the economic impact of a rising Devils Lake on North Dakota and the Devils Lake Basin, and the economic justification for a

permanent emergency outlet. The state is hiring an out-of-state consultant to analyze the economics of the rising lake.

North Dakota Farm Service Agency has reported that 34 North Dakota counties are eligible for Emergency Loan Assistance due to damage and losses caused by severe storms, snow and ice, ground saturation, landslides, mudslides and tornado, conditions that began March 1 and are continuing. Eligible counties include: Barnes, Benson, Bottineau, Burleigh, Cass, Dickey, Emmons, Foster, Grand Forks, Griggs, Kidder, LaMoure, Logan, McHenry, McIntosh, McLean, Mountrail, Nelson, Pembina, Pierce, Ramsey, Ransom, Renville, Richland, Rolette, Sargent, Sheridan, Steele, Stutsman, Towner, Traill, Walsh, Ward and Wells. In addition, 10 counties were named as contiguous and are also eligible for Emergency Loan Assistance. These counties include Burke, Eddy, Mercer, Sioux, Cavalier, McKenzie, Morton, Williams, Dunn and Oliver. Loan application may be submitted to Farm Service Agency through February 8, 2000, for physical and production losses.

The first emergency housing assistance checks have been issued to North Dakota residents by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The approximately 400 checks totaled \$500,000.

Applicant Briefings to explain the details of the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program will be held June 28 through July 1. All 53 counties are eligible. Following is a schedule of meetings:

Three Affiliated Tribes and Williams, Burke, Renville, Mountrail, Bottineau and Ward Counties:

Ward County Courthouse
Ex-Servicemen Room
315 SE 3rd
Minot
Monday, June 28, 1999 - 1:30 p.m.

Turtle Mountain Chippewa, Spirit Lake Tribe and McHenry, Rolette, Pierce, Towner, Ramsey, Benson, Wells and Foster Counties:

Memorial Hall
Corner of 3rd St. SE and 2nd Ave SE
Rugby
Tuesday, June 29, 1999 - 8:30 a.m.

Pembina, Walsh, Nelson, Grand Forks, Griggs, Steele and Traill Counties:

Civic Auditorium, Room 105
615 - 1st Ave N.
Grand Forks
Tuesday, June 29, 1999 - 2:30 p.m.

Stutsman, Barnes, Cass, LaMoure, Ransom, Richland, Sargent and Dickey Counties:

Basement of Barnes County Courthouse
Valley City
Wednesday, June 30, 1999 - 9:00 a.m.

Standing Rock Sioux Tribe, McLean, Sheridan, Kidder, Logan, McIntosh, Emmons, Sioux and Burleigh Counties:

Raymond J. Bohn Armory
4200 East Divide (East of the Oasis Truck Stop)
Bismarck
Thursday, July 1, 1999 at 9:00 a.m.

Disaster recovery teams have started visits to 17 cities in North Dakota to provide information to individuals who have been affected by this spring's severe weather. Disaster Recovery Centers (DRCs) will be open from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. The schedule is as follows:

Jamestown: June 21,22,23
Law Enforcement Center
(Lower Level) 205 6th Street SE

Rugby: June 21,22,23
138 South Main Avenue

Belcourt: June 21,22,23
Jollies Mall
Highway 5

Valley City: 24,25,26
Courthouse (OPS room in basement)
230 NW 4th Street

Cavalier: June 24,25,26
Mountain Chalet Cafe

Bottineau: June 24,25,26
Courthouse Conference Room
314 West 5th Street

Minot: June 28,29,30
Courthouse (Ex-Serviceman's Room)
315 3rd Street SE
(Hours are 10:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.)

Fargo: June 28,29,30
(To be determined)

Fort Totten: June 28,29,30
Community Building
Main Street

New Town: July 1,2,3
Fort Berthold Community College
220 8th Avenue North

Minnewaukan: July 1,2,3
1st American Bank Basement
Main Street & B Avenue

Northwood: July 1,2,3
(To be determined)

Oakes: July 5,6,7
National Guard Armory
124 South 5th Street

Garrison: July 5,6,7
Senior Citizen Center
#1 West Central

Rolette: July 5,6,7
Memorial Hall
503 2nd Avenue

Belcourt: July 8,9,10
Jollies Mall
Highway 5

Bismarck: July 8,9
Bismarck Public Library
515 North 5th Street

Fort Yates: July 9,10,12
Sitting Bull College Auditorium
Highway 24 East

North Dakota state agencies providing support for the DRCs include the N.D. Department of Human Services, N.D. Department of Health and the N.D. Department of Agriculture. Federal agencies include the FEMA and the U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA). The State Department of Health staff has been providing information to individuals on how to address problems associated with contaminated water wells, failing septic system and mold issues. The agency's staff conducted training for the DRC staff on how to address these issues. In addition, local health district representatives are helping the DRC staff to provide technical information to disaster victims. Assistance provided by Human Services employees staffing the DRCs includes counseling services. Staff from the Department of Agriculture's agricultural mediation program will be available to assist disaster victims.

The Mountrail County EOC was activated during a June 8 tornado as were members of the city of Stanley Police and Fire Departments and the Mountrail County Sheriff's Office and Emergency Management Office. The warning plan was implemented, and local institutions were notified to include a nursing home, hospital and Tri-City Cares.

Officials for Mercer County, and for the cities of Wolford in Pierce County, Goodrich in Sheridan County, and Sharon in Steele County have issued disaster declarations. Thirty-eight counties, 30 cities and four Indian reservations have issued flood or storm emergency or disaster declarations. The McHenry County Eaton Irrigation System also issued an emergency declaration.

The Devils Lake State Flood Coordination Center meeting was held June 17. Following is a summary of the meeting:

North Dakota Emergency Management

Preliminary damage assessments for Individual Assistance and Public Assistance were recently conducted for the Standing Rock Sioux Indian Reservation and Burke, Mercer, Sioux and Williams Counties, areas affected by recent severe storms, to include tornadoes.

Staffs from the North Dakota Emergency Management and FEMA have been reminding disaster victims that although they may have reported damages to their county emergency manager, they still need to apply for assistance by calling FEMA's teleregistration number, (800) 462-9029. Once disaster victims have registered for assistance, they can direct their questions to a toll-free helpline, (800) 525-0321.

North Dakota Department of Transportation

Within the Devils Lake vicinity, work is continuing on two projects to raise riprap elevations on lake crossings. Work has been completed on all crossings considered most vulnerable, and work is now underway on other less vulnerable sites. Some sites have been damaged by the high winds experienced in recent weeks, so they will be repaired before these contracts are closed.

The contractor is now pouring substructure concrete for the N.D. Highway 57 Narrows bridge. From the progress made to date, it looks probable that efforts to

build the bridge will not be completed until late July or early in August. Aggregate base material has been placed on the roadway, so when the bridge is built, it should be possible to open the crossing to travel. A contract for surfacing of this roadway, and others in the area, was scheduled to be bid on June 18. The elevation of the new bridge will be 1,464.5 feet, while the roadway finished surface will gradually taper down on each side of the bridge to a low elevation of about 1,456.4 feet.

A contract to raise N.D. Highway 20 at the Mission Bay and Black Tiger Bay crossings was let last week, and the contractor is expected to start moving dirt soon. On this project, the roadway will be raised to about 1,452.75 feet finished with asphalt surfacing. The base of the roadway will not be widened at this time, however, so this is as far as the road can be raised without widening the base.

Plans are being prepared for a letting of bids in July to raise N.D. Highway 20, from the Devils Lake dike south to the junction of N.D. Highway 57. Bids will also be let to raise N.D. Highway 57, from the Spirit Lake Casino south to the ski jump road. On both of these projects, the road will be raised to a finished elevation of about 1,456.3 feet, and the road base will be widened to allow future raises up to an elevation of 1,460 feet. It is expected that work will begin on both of these projects in August, but neither one is likely to be completed this construction season. For both these projects, a goal will be to raise the highway sufficiently to keep it from being inundated by any possible rapid lake rise next spring.

Although no plans have yet been formulated for water-threatened areas on N.D. Highway 19, various alternatives are being studied as well as possible methods of raising the bridges at Six Mile Bay and Mauvais Coulee. A major problem at this time is that no source of funding for this work has yet been identified. The Six Mile Bay crossing is slightly lower than the other lake crossings on N.D. Highway 19, and this crossing is very vulnerable to inundation should any extreme rain events be experienced in the area.

Alternatives for maintaining U.S. Highway 281 as a viable route are also being formulated. Although no work will be necessary to raise this highway this year, future lake rises may threaten it.

A consulting engineer has been retained to prepare plans for a project on U.S. Highway 2, westbound, from Devils Lake to Churchs Ferry, which probably will include grade raises for the Stink Lake and Mauvais Coulee crossings near Churchs Ferry, as well as possibly some work at the Channel A crossing. This project is presently scheduled for a bid letting in the year 2000, although any extreme lake rise in 2000 may require some earlier work near Churchs Ferry. Work on the project may not be completed until 2001.

A field review was conducted June 17 to look at the relocation of N.D. Highway 1 around the east end of Stump Lake. This project will probably be done in 2000, assuming Devils Lake water hits Stump Lake. The road is presently at 1,411.29 feet in elevation.

Federal Highway Administration personnel traveled through the Devils Lake District last week to review flood disaster sites. No definitive word has been received yet on which sites will be eligible for emergency relief disaster funding.

Traffic has been restored on N.D. Highway 57, from Ft. Totten northeast to near the ski jump road, although work to provide a road surface less subject to traffic damage still needs to be completed.

N.D. State Water Commission

The State Water Commission (SWC) staff, representatives of the Spirit Lake Tribe and others met June 17 to discuss an emergency outlet from Devils Lake through the Twin Lakes.

The City of Devils Lake has initiated a project to build a channel from Stump Lake to Tolna Coulee. Permit applications for this work have been submitted. This project would also include a means of diverting water from East Devils Lake to Tolna Coulee. The city has asked the SWC for assistance on this part. SWC has assigned an engineer to work directly with the city to provide help in locating channel routes and preliminary quantities.

Current figures for the Available Storage Acreage Program are: 117 contracts have been issued for 6,644 acres, storing 11,300 acre-feet at a cost of \$598,000. In addition to these sites, the outlet of Sweetwater-Morrison Lakes will be reconstructed and raised six inches to store an additional 3,500 acre-feet of water. The SWC construction crew is conducting site preparation work.

The National Weather Service (NWS) has issued a new forecast for the level of Devils Lake; however, the forecasted high of 1,447.5 to 1,448 feet has not changed. Current inflows have tapered off, and if precipitation is normal, SWC staff expects the lake to raise a few more tenths of a foot. So far this year, the total inflow into the lake has been 331,000 acre-feet. The largest inflow amount recorded was 463,500 acre-feet in 1997. In 1995, 343,000 acre-feet flowed into the lake.

For a number of different reasons, SWC staff has become concerned that the elevation benchmarks around Devils Lake may not be consistent with each other. To address this concern, the SWC survey crew has established a global positioning system network within the region bound by Maza, Lawton, Pekin and the city of Sheyenne. The fieldwork for this network is complete; however, the required calculations are still in progress.

A lawsuit has been filed by a group of landowners against the State of North Dakota, the North Dakota State Water Commission, the Devils Lake Basin Joint Water Resource Board and the basin's individual water resource boards. The Commission is currently working on its response to the complaint, which must be filed by July 9.

To date, the National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) has processed 12 flood insurance claims submitted by Devils Lake area property owners. These claims are for shoreline properties most vulnerable and subject to eminent and immediate destruction by the lake at its current elevations. Approximately 20 claims are pending while NFIP officials clarify their approach to the processing of these additional Devils Lake area flood claims. A nationwide change to the flood insurance contract language dealing with closed-basin lakes (like Devils Lake) is being considered by the NFIP. If a new, closed-basin lake flood insurance claim process is instituted, any future flood insurance "waiver" approach would no longer be necessary.

The preliminary Flood Insurance Rate Map (FIRMs), dated March 19, 1999 for Ramsey County, Benson County and the Spirit Lake Tribe, will be revised by the NFIP. These preliminary FIRMs are on a countywide format and include all the incorporated cities within these entities. The revised preliminary FIRMs will now show the 500-year floodplain at an elevation of 1,460 feet msl. A formal adoption process must be followed before these preliminary FIRMs become the effective NFIP flood maps for the area.

N.D. Parks and Recreation Department, Devils Lake Area State Parks

Estimated 1999 flood losses in Devils Lake State Parks are as follows:

Shelvers Grove: Park staff has stopped taking reservations for the facility. Vehicle access to the eastern half of the park has flooded, and use of the public day use and picnic shelter has been closed. The current lake elevation has flooded the campground storm drain system and will allow water to remain in the interior of the campground. Sections of the campground road are at 1,448.5 feet; on windy days, problems with wave action may occur along the road. A section of the entrance road will require placement of riprap to protect access to the campground. The estimated cost for repairs has been placed at \$1,500. A park shop has been moved three times, and is now at 1,464 feet.

Grahams Island: The park has six electrical sites available to campers this year compared to 85 in 1993. Only 44 of the 122 campsites have not flooded. Because floodwaters are threatening all transformers, Northern Plains Electric Cooperative staff has indicated that the electric service for the campground area should be discontinued. Estimated loss of the electrical service is \$30,000. This system provides service to the campground comfort station. Electrical service to the east end of the campground has been terminated. The septic system for the assistant manager's residence has failed. Park staff has been pumping a temporary holding tank and transporting the effluent to the park wastewater treatment ponds. Several sections of the park's interior roads are experiencing erosion and will require riprap protection.

Emergency repairs to the park include riprap of a road, boat ramp and Sivert Center at a cost of \$12,000, and riprap to a fish cleaning station, estimated to cost \$30.

Black Tiger Bay: The elevation of the boat ramp is 1,448 feet. The lake level is causing serious erosion problems in the parking and boat access area. Placement of riprap and a two-foot grade raise on a short section of road has been completed. Plans are to raise the access road, boat ramp and parking area to elevation 1,449 feet. Total estimated repair costs are \$40,000, and are funded by the ND Game and Fish Department.

Lake Region Human Service Center (LRHSC)

The N.D. Department of Human Services has applied for funding through the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for a Crisis Counseling Program for disaster victims. Preliminary information suggests that the program will operate initially for two months with a possible two-month extension. Planning

for the program in the Lake Region area is still in process. Goals include addressing the needs of residents in Benson, Towner and Ramsey Counties and the Indian reservations of Spirit Lake Tribe and Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa. Preliminary plans call for establishing crisis counseling teams on both reservations and a team based in Devils Lake to address the needs of residents living in Rolette, Benson, Eddy, Cavalier, Towner, and Ramsey Counties.

Staff members at the Lake Region Human Service Center (LRHSC) has requested that their office be contacted at (701) 665-2200 to discuss referrals for individuals or families in need of mental health services. The 24-hour crisis line is (701) 662-5050.

A suicide prevention training session will be held the week of June 20-26 for the staff at the LRHSC. Psychologists will provide information on latest suicide prevention theories.

Employees of the LRHSC Rolla satellite office were scheduled to staff the Disaster Recovery Center in Belcourt on June 21, 22 and 23.

North Dakota Insurance Department

Staff for the N.D. Department of Insurance has been referring recent calls regarding the 1999 waiver of NFIP requirements to county emergency managers and insurance agents.

Staff also assisted the Barnes County Emergency Manager to find information on insurance companies willing to cover mudslide losses. Mudslides are not covered under typical homeowner policies. Because of high ground water tables, mudslides have been occurring in the Barnes County area. A broker and company that could provide the service was located; the minimum premium was \$1,500.

Insurance staff members also provided information to FEMA on homeowners' and mobile home owners' insurance policy coverage for flood, seepage and sump pump failures.

N.D. Game and Fish Department

Only six of the 16 boat ramps along the Devils Lake shoreline are usable, staff for the N.D. Game and Fish Department has reported. General maintenance will be performed as needed to remaining boat ramps.

N.D. Department of Agriculture

Recent precipitation, coupled with high water tables and a rising Devils Lake, has either delayed or prevented planting of crops. Rainfall has ranged from four to 12 inches in the region. Agriculture officials anticipate that a large percentage of crops may not be planted this year. In addition, deadlines have passed for obtaining crop insurance.

N.D. Department of Health

The N.D. Department of Health staff has modified its water quality program for 1999 for the Devils Lake area to include two new sites at Pelican Lake. Other monitoring sites are located at West Bay, Six Mile Bay, Main Bay and east Devils Lake. Four sites were eliminated because of redundancies in the program. Two monitors were removed near Minnewaukan, a third at Black Tiger Bay and a fourth at Creel Bay. A complete chemical analysis will be done at each site five to six times during 1999. Monitoring took place during the last week of May.

The department has issued water quality certificates in many emergency 404 (dredge and fill) projects in the Devils Lake area.

Health officials are seeking a Section 319 project in the Devils Lake Basin. The projects are designed to minimize non-point pollution from agricultural land. Recent projects include monitoring work in the Bisbee Dam area.

The Department is participating with North Dakota State University (NDSU) on an algae study of the Sheyenne River. Information gathered from the study will be part of the environmental impact statement being prepared for a possible Devils Lake outlet.

Lake Region District Health Unit

Under the 1999 waiver, NFIP officials have been withholding 40 percent of the homeowner's payment until the house is moved and the lot is cleaned up. The homeowners must have a letter from the environmental health officer from Lake Region District Health before NFIP releases the 40 percent that has been withheld. This year, the lots are being cleaned up immediately after the houses are moved. Questions about lot and foundation cleanup are being directed to the environmental health officer.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

This summer, the USACE has been administering three contracts, totaling \$20 million, for flood protection for the city of Devils Lake. Contractors are working on the levee, from N.D. Highway 20 to Merten's Dairy, and from N.D. Highway 19 to Devils Lake Golf Course. In addition, the East Ditch pumping station is under construction. The levee will provide protection to 1,450 feet with a top-of-levee elevation of 1,457 feet.

Emergency levee work is underway at Spirit Lake Nation where three of six levees are being reinforced at a cost of \$75,000. Other emergency work includes providing an access road to a lift station at Peterson Subdivision.

Ramsey County Emergency Management

At least 20 homes have been moved through the 1999 waiver of the NFIP. More homes will need to be relocated as the level of Devils Lake rises.

Ramsey County Rural Utilities continues to have lift station problems. A lift station on N.D. Highway 20 south of Devils Lake has to be relocated because of

work to widen the highway. The station provides service for approximately 30 homes. Officials anticipate relocation to be an expensive undertaking.

American Red Cross continues to provide food and lodging to individuals whose homes are being inundated by Devils Lake floodwaters.

City of Churchs Ferry

Residents of Churchs Ferry have been invited to participate in a community meeting that the mayor of Minnewaukan is conducting on June 29. Residents of the two communities will discuss options for addressing potential problems posed by a rising Devils Lake.

Nelson County Highway Department

A public meeting to discuss prioritization of roads in the Stump Lake area was scheduled for June 22 in Tolna. The Nelson County Commission has identified roads that will be used as primary routes for emergency services.

The road superintendent noted that water near Ramsey County Road 4 has been rising at a rate of two inches every week. Water levels rose six inches between May 28 and June 4. Water from this area will flow to Nelson County Road 27.

Nelson County Emergency Management

Individuals in the Dahlen area are experiencing problems with high water tables. One young family has to move from their rental home in Dahlen due to the water in the basement and mold problems. Additional reports of black mold have been received.

The Red River Regional Council has been working with officials in Pembina and Nelson Counties on a disaster-related housing rehabilitation grant. Qualifying individuals would meet income requirements and would also be encouraged to register for assistance with FEMA. The grant administrator would monitor any duplication of benefits. This grant is a 75 percent-25 percent match with the latter paid by the recipient or local entities. A fundraising campaign is being formed pending grant approval.

On June 6, a tornado blew apart a farm family's garage, pole barn and sheds, rolled and destroyed their camper, moved farm machinery around and destroyed several granaries, scattering debris for miles. A path needed to be cleared to access the power pole, so the rural electric crews could reestablish power to the residence. The warning sirens worked, but a problem of storm chasers caused congestion on Main Street and Frontage Road as travelers on U.S. Highway 2 watched the funnel clouds.

The Lakota Nursing home was not notified of the severe weather and tornado watch until the warning occurred. The siren is not heard in the building due to the air exchanger and soundproofing. A pager that has the fire department frequency will be placed at the nurses' station. When the Devils Lake Law Enforcement Center pages the weather spotters and fire crews, the nursing home staff will automatically be notified also. The charge nurse will carry the portable pager and a protocol for testing the system will be implemented.

Letters requesting the opening of Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) land for grazing were sent to the Farm Service Agency. However, the CRP will not be opened at this time due to unmet requirements.

The Nelson County Emergency Board met June 17 and reviewed the prevented planted acreage. Their findings reveal that, since 1994, Nelson County continues to average 10 to 15 percent prevented planting acres. In 1998, approximately 53,200 prevented acres were reported. This year, seeding remains behind schedule and crop conditions vary. While some crops appear to be doing well, heavy rainfall has pelted crops and, with the warmer temperatures and winds, crusted soil conditions may occur.

Benson County Emergency Management

Flood waters and rising water tables continue to cause problems on Federal Aid System (FAS) roads. Damaged road sites include two locations on Fillmore Road, one site on Knox Road and one site on Brinsmade Road.

Saturated roadbeds, too soft for travel, and road inundation are causing delays in response by emergency services personnel.

Flood waters from nearby Devils Lake are threatening the football field at Minnewaukan Public School.

8. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: Assistance has been provided, as reported.
9. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: FEMA, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), USACE, Red Cross, consulting engineers, N.D. DOT and members of the N.D. Volunteer Organizations Active in Disaster (VOAD).
10. OTHER: The next Devils Lake State Flood Coordination Center meeting has been scheduled for 1:30 p.m. July 22 at the Ramsey County Courthouse basement meeting room.

Situation Reports published by the N.D. Division of Emergency Management are posted on the Division's Internet Home page. The address is:
<http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director